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"Yuri Nosenko, KGB"

Lo and behold a miracle has occurred. A serious TV movie about CIA has been broadcast, and it is neither childishy superficial in plot and character nor filled with naive and arrogant hostility toward the assumed iniquity of the intelligence profession.

The *CIRA Newsletter*, published by the Central Intelligence Retirees' Association in its Winter 1986/87 issue, gave notice of this remarkable TV presentation in an excellent review by F. Mark Wyatt.

The movie, "Yuri Nosenko, KGB," is based on a script by Stephen Davis and was produced by Graham Massey for the British Broadcasting Corporation. It was first shown in the United States by Home Box Office on September 7, 1986. Adults with some knowledge of real intelligence work can look at this film with fascination and suspense as a parable of the uncertainties, moral dilemmas, and genuine intellectual differences CIA case officers know.

The story tells of the handling of a KGB defector who might have been a key intelligence source but more likely was a plant sent to deflect suspicion that the Soviet Union might have had something to do with Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination of President John F. Kennedy. It is not spy fiction. It is history as it comes in the world of international secrets — enigmatic, gripping, perhaps eternally without a firm conclusion to a haunting tale.

The three main roles were played by Josef Sommers as James Angleton, Oleg Rudnik as Yuri Nosenko, and Tommy Lee Jones as "Steve Daley," a pseudonym for CIA's case officer in charge of Nosenko.

Many old hands will know who the case officer is, as well as a number of other actors with pseudonyms. The name of Richard Helms is used in the script, with the part being played by Christopher Wynkopf. The mixture of real names, including another famous KGB defector, Anatoliy Golitsyn, plus pseudonymous recognizable figures from CIA's roster, makes the story grab the knowledgeable viewer.

The question posed is: Was Nosenko a neurotic and erratic defector or a deception agent? Steve Daley, the case officer, considers that he was a fraud, and the movie leans in this direction although it does not come to a clear-cut conclusion. Nor does it portray the CIA as either cruel or negligent in its handling of defectors or foolishly obsessed with searching for KGB penetrations, although some viewers might plausibly leap to those conclusions.

It is true that Nosenko was confined and interrogated for years by the CIA. He never broke down under stress and was finally released and nominally cleared. Yet questions linger, and the viewers are allowed the rare luxury of making up their own minds from a rich body of evidence.

FILS managed to get a special viewing that was eminently worthwhile. Try to get a chance to see the movie.